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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please reconsider the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for thwarting coordinated SYN denial of service (CSDoS) attacks against a server S disposed in a network of interconnected elements communicating using the TCP protocol, comprising the steps of
 - controlling a network switch to divert a predetermined fraction of SYN packets destined for said server, to a web guard processor,
 - establishing a first TCP connection between one or more clients originating said packets and said web guard processor, and a second TCP connection between said web guard processor and said server, so that packets can be transmitted between said one or more clients and said server,
 - monitoring the number of timed-out connections between said web guard processor and said one or more clients,
 - if the number of timed-out connections between said web guard processor and said one or more clients exceeds a first predetermined threshold, controlling said switch to divert all SYN packets destined to said server to said web guard processor.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of generating an alarm indicating that said server is likely to be under attack.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including the further steps of
 - determining if the number of timed-out connections between said web guard processor and said clients exceeds a second predetermined threshold, and
 - if so, controlling said switch to delete all SYN packets destined for said server.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of generating an alarm indicating that said server is under attack.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the step of notifying said server that it is under attack.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the step of notifying other web guard processors in said network that said server is under attack.
7. (Previously Presented) A method for thwarting coordinated SYN denial of service (CSDoS) attacks against a server disposed in a network of interconnected elements communicating using the TCP protocol, the attack originating from a host generating SYN packets destined for the server, said method comprising:
- arranging a switch receiving the SYN packets destined to the server to forward the SYN packets to a TCP proxy arranged to operate without an associated cache,
 - for each SYN packet, sending a SYN/ACK packet from the TCP proxy to a sender address included in the SYN packet by the host;
 - establishing a TCP connection, corresponding to a particular SYN packet of the SYN packets, between the TCP proxy and the server only if the TCP proxy receives a response from the host to the SYN/ACK packet corresponding to the particular SYN packet.
8. (Previously Presented) A method for thwarting coordinated SYN denial of service (CSDoS) attacks against a server disposed in a network of interconnected elements communicating using the TCP protocol, comprising:
- forwarding a statistical sampling of packets from a switch in the network to a processor,
 - if packets in the sampling indicate an attack against the server, altering the operation of the switch to forward all packets destined for the server to the processor.

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9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the switch is arranged to discard packets in the event an attack is detected.

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